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at 9.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. INSANALLY
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.50 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Rwanda (A/48/241)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the request by Rwanda for the inclusion of an item entitled "Emergency assistance for the socio-economic rehabilitation of Rwanda" (A/48/241). The representative of Rwanda had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Bizimana (Rwanda) took a place at the Committee table.

3. Mr. BIZIMANA (Rwanda) said that on 1 October 1990 a devastating war had broken out in Rwanda following attacks launched from Uganda by the Rwandese Patriotic Front. As a result, the country had suffered a great deal of material damage and many people had been killed. More than 900,000 displaced persons, constituting 13 per cent of the Rwandese population, had been left completely destitute. The socio-economic infrastructure had been destroyed and basic services had collapsed in the regions where the fighting had taken place.

4. With regard to the economic situation, the war had destroyed a substantial amount of the socio-economic and administrative infrastructures and a great quantity of equipment and installations. The economy of Rwanda, which during the 1980s had already been suffering severe perturbations aggravated by the uncertainties of the international economic situation, had now suffered further damage as a result of the war. Mindful of the urgent need to put an end to the war, the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front had undertaken direct negotiations, which had led to the signing of the Arusha Peace Agreement on 4 August 1993, opening the way for a new era of peace and national reconciliation. The process of reconstruction and consolidating peace in Rwanda aimed at reviving the economy and resettling people displaced by the war, completing the ongoing democratization of the country and rehabilitating the damaged infrastructures.

5. Accordingly, Rwanda appealed to the international community to contribute to the success of that process. The Government and people of Rwanda requested the Committee to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda and that the item should be allocated to the Second Committee.

6. Mrs. HASSAN (Egypt), Mr. JUMA (Zaire), Ms. SEMGU (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. MONGBE (Benin), Mr. BULL (Liberia), Mr. HADID (Algeria) and Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso) said that they supported the request made by the representative of Rwanda.

7. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

8. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Second Committee.

9. Mr. Bizimana (Rwanda) withdrew.

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Cuba (A/48/242)

10. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the request by Cuba for the inclusion of an item entitled "Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts". The representative of Cuba had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

11. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Fernandez Palacios (Cuba) took a place at the Committee table.

12. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that he wished to propose the inclusion of the new item in view of the current international situation, in which 200,000 children died each week from malnutrition and various curable diseases and nearly 20 million were physically disabled, confined in refugee camps or homeless. The progress achieved in the protection of children had been meagre and inadequate in spite of the enormous efforts by the international community. Accordingly, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States urged the Committee to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda and allocate it to the Third Committee.

13. Mr. MARTINI HERRERA (Guatemala) and Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay) said that they supported the request by Cuba for the inclusion of the new item.

14. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

15. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Third Committee.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.